

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /082 W

----- 014373

P R 231155Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIOTITY 5009

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, EG

SUBJECT: DAYAN--GOLAN HEIGHTS IS KEY TO WAR OR PEACE

1. SUMMARY: FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN, IN
DECEMBER 20 TV INTERVIEW, SAID A) SECOND STAGE ISRAEL- EGYPT
AGREEMENT REMAINED POSSIBLE, BUT IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER
EGYPT COULD MOVE WITHOUT PARALLEL SYRAIN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS,
AND B) AN ADDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF SEVERAL KILOMETERS
ON GOALN HEIGHTS WOULD NOT END ISRAELI-SYRAIN DISPUTE.
THUS, ISRAELI PRESENCE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS WAS " KEY TO WAR."
END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING ON ISRAELI TELEVISION DECEMBER 20, FORMER DEFENSE
MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN(PRSENTLY LABOR PARTY MK), GAVE
ASSESSMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, MAKING FOLLOWING MAIN PAOINTS.

3. ACHIEVEMENT OF SECOND STAGE INTERMIM EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT
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REMANED POSSIBLE DESPITE CURRENT GAP IN POSITIONS OF TWO SIDES.

BUT IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER EGYPT WOULD BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL WITHOUT POLITICAL MOVEMENT ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN FRONT. PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDING STAGE AGREEMENT HINGED ON ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.

4. DAYAN SAID THAT SYRIA WOULD NEVER AGREE TO A PERMANENT ISRAELI PRESENCE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS NOT ONLY "OPEN SORE" BUT AS "KEY TO WAR". WHILE LEAVING GOLAN HEIGHTS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BRING ABOUT PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. GOI DECISION TO REMAIN ON HEIGHTS WOULD LEAD TO ANOTHER WAR.

5. DAYAN SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN STAYING ON HEIGHTS OR LEAVING IT ALTOGETHER. SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT RETURNING SEVERAL MORE KILOMETERS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS TO SYRIAN CONTROL WOULD NOT FULFILL SYRIAN OBJECTIVES. WHOEVER HELD THAT SECURITY WAS ISRAEL'S PRIME CONSIDERATION WOULD REMAIN ON GOLAN HEIGHTS AND REGARD IT AS INTEGRAL PART OF STATE OF ISRAEL. WHOEVER FELT THAT WAR MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS WOULD HAVE TO REALIZE THAT "ALL" BEGAN WITH GOLAN HEIGHTS

7. DAYAN'S TV REMARKS PROMPTED SPECULATION IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS. IN INTERVIEW WITH YEDYOT AHARON REPORTED, PUBLISHED DECEMBER 22, DAYAN SAID, "I DO NOT RECOMMEND COMING DOWN FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS." DAYAN SAID THAT HIS REMARKS WERE INTENDED AS ANALYSIS OF SITUATION, NOT AS POLICY RECOMMENDATION, AND THAT HE WANTED TO CALL TO ATTENTION OF GOI LEADERS IMPLICATION OF RECENT REMARKS TO EFFECT THAT ISRAEL HAD TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PREVENT NEW WAR.

8. AS REPORTED IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA, DAYAN WAS PREVENTED FROM DELIVERING DECEMBER 19 LECTURE AT BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM TO BEREAVED FAMILIES WHO HAD LOST SONS IN OCTOBER 1973 WAR. HE SPOKE INSTEAD TO SMALL FACULTY GROUP IN PRIVATE SESSION. IN EXPLAINING THEIR ACTION, ONE PARENT SAID, "WE WANT MOSHE DAYAN TO STOP SPEAKING ABOUT THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, STOP TALKING ABOUT SACRIFICES AND WARS, AND SHUT UP FOR A FEW YEARS." UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAVE SAID THAT DAYAN'S LECTURE SERIES WILL CONTINUE.

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9. COMMENT: CONTINUING WIDE PUBLICITY TO DAYAN'S VIEWS IN ISRAELI AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA UNDERSCORES HIS IMPORTANCE ON ISRAELI POLITICAL SCENE, EVEN AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. WHILE SOME ISRAELIS ARE DISILLUSIONED WITH DAYAN, AS SHOWN BY PARENTS DEMONSTRATION AT BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY, HE REMAINS A POLITICAL FORCE WITH WHOM RABIN AND HIS MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATES MUST CONTEND. WITHIN LABOR PARTY,

HE IS STILL HEAD OF RIGHTWING RAFI FACTION WHOSE SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT
FACTOR IN GOVERNMENT'S COHESION AND STABILITY. IT WILL BE
DIFFICULT FOR RABIN TO MAKE A MAJOR NEGOTIATING MOVE TO WHICH
DAYAN IS OPPOSED, AND IN THAT SENSE DAYAN CONSTITUTES A CONSTRAINT
ON HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, GOLAN HEIGHTS, PEACE TALKS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV07401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740372-0813
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741213/aaaaaldg.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAYAN--GOLAN HEIGHTS IS KEY TO WAR OR PEACE
TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, EG, (DAYAN, MOSHE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005